

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH JULY 2005 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY

Present: Councillors S. Arnold (in the Chair), D. Bryant, A. Holdsworth, R. Judd
W. Kewley, I. Oliver, P. Sopowski

In Attendance: County Councillor M. Kendall, District Councillor D. Tipp, Parish Clerk L. Griggs and 17 members of the public (including two representatives from Kingfisher Housing Association and one from Charles Planning Associates Ltd).

Apologies for absence: Councillor S. Ardern, District Councillor L. Puttock

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Public Participation

The Chairman asked if there were any matters which members of the public wished to raise. There were several questions relating to the verges in Woodlands Road and the Chairman requested that they be considered under item 4.

In response to a question regarding hedges bordering the field adjacent to Whartons Road, it was confirmed that the field is privately owned.

In response to a question relating to the height of hedges at road junctions the Chairman undertook to ascertain the maximum height allowed and report back to the next meeting.

In response to a question the Chairman confirmed that she had received no request for Kingfisher HA to be present at the 20-year fete, but in any case it would seem to be inappropriate.

In response to a question on the cessation of the bus service 56A no one had received any prior notice of the cancellation.

County Councillor Mel Kendal was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman and because he had another meeting to attend she suggested he might wish to make his contribution at this point. Councillor Kendall responded that he was pleased to be present. He said that as there were three Parish Council meetings all held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month he would only be able to get to about one in three of the Ashurst & Colbury meetings. However he would be available for any matters which required his direct input.

Councillor Kendall gave information from a report he had received on the change in traffic flow through Ashurst following the construction of the right turn from the A336 onto the A35 to Lyndhurst. He said that following a survey carried out for 12 hours, 7.00 to 19.00, revealed only a 5% increase in traffic compared with 2 years earlier. He also said that the report included a recommendation to the Highways Authority that a Variable Message Sign be placed on the M27 which would illuminate if traffic on the A337 to Lyndhurst was backing up to a specific point and filter traffic onto the A336 and A35.

There was considerable dissension from public and Councillors to this information. Councillor Judd pointed out that the survey had been carried out two days after the start of the school holiday and was by any standard a very quiet day for traffic. Therefore she felt the survey was not valid. In summary the views of those present were:

- the work carried out in Lyndhurst has in fact exacerbated the traffic problems not reduced them
- local experience shows there is a significant increase in traffic west through Ashurst and the 5% figure cannot be truly representative of the actual situation
- any further action to filter traffic along the A336/A35 would divert even more heavy goods vehicles, as well as other traffic, through the village.

The Chairman asked to be provided with a copy of the report so that Councillors could consider the detail and provide a full response. Councillor Kendall undertook to send a copy through to her but commented that he was not on the committees who had worked on the report and was only providing the outcome of their deliberations.

He also reported that Social Services had been reorganised following the appointment of a woman to head up Adult services and a man to head up Childrens services. Announcements would be made in due course.

Councillor Kendall then retired from the meeting.

2. Disclosure of interest

Councillor Kewley presented a Form C in regard to item 4a.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

On a proposal by Councillor Bryant, seconded by Councillor Kewley, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be and are hereby approved. They were signed by the Chairman.

Following a discussion on the distribution of minutes prior to ratification at the following meeting, it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that only councillors, NFDC, the Member of Parliament and our local women police officers should receive the minutes. The Chairman undertook to discuss the timing of publication on the website with Councillor Ardern.

4. Highway matters

- a) Woodlands Road. Several matters were discussed in regard to FC letter regarding removal of obstructions on the verges. Councillor Sopowski advised that the grass verge was owned by the Forestry Commission who was taking this action to protect themselves against possible accident claims. It was also noted that the overhanging willows on the other side of the road were preventing normal pedestrian access along the path. The Parish Clerk was requested to write to the FC on that matter and also to enquire from the appropriate authorities about speed cameras, fixed or mobile, to stop speeding along the road.
- b) Signs regarding the temporary closure of Dene Way were in place.
- c) The style of the new Bus Shelter on the A35, after the Forest Hotel, was queried but it was confirmed to be a cantilever structure as quoted for. The need for a green rubbish bin by the bus stop was obvious from the amount of litter strewn around.

5. Recreation Ground

Councillor Oliver reported that the new equipment had been ordered and there would be a site meeting with the suppliers next week.

6. New “village open space”

The Chairman reported that she had attended many meetings, and while there was a lot of support the matter was still under discussion.

7. Parish Plan

A final effort was to be made at the 20 year Celebration Event to get parishioners to comment. If there was still no adequate response the matter would be closed.

8. 20 year celebrations

The Chairman said that everything was now ready for a great day. All that was needed now was good weather and a great crowd attending. She expressed her thanks to the Event Committee for all their support and hard work. In particular she wished to thank Councillor Oliver for spending many hours mowing some 4 acres of field with a 15” petrol mower!

9. A new walk for the village

The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from Mrs Barker-Mills Management Company saying they would get back to us after discussions with her.

10. Planning matters

a) Councillor Sopowski reported on the planning matters processed since the last meeting. (See annex 1)

b) Mr. Carl Patrick, representing Kingfisher Housing Association stated that they would be unable to make the presentation on July 22nd as proposed because they had not received from NFDC the feedback necessary to make the presentation meaningful. In addition they had been advised by NFDC not to make any presentations on the matter until they had received that feedback. The Chairman expressed great disappointment in view of the amount of publicity already given to the event and the need now to ensure everyone was aware of the cancellation. In response to the Chairman's question Mr. Dickson on behalf of Kingfisher HA confirmed that no planning application would be made on this matter until the presentation to the Council and Parishioners had taken place and local views taken into account. A new date would be agreed with the Chairman for the presentation to be made once the NFDC feedback had been received.

11. The "lengthsman"

Nothing to report

12. Accounts

A list of accounts due for payment was tabled and on a proposal by Councillor Holdsworth, seconded by Councillor Oliver, it was **RESOLVED** that they be paid.

13. Grants

A request for financial assistance had been received from the New Forest Information Service. In the letter reference was made to a "Village Link in your area". It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Clerk write requesting details of the Village Link and the usual financial information for consideration at the next meeting.

14. Reports from Representatives on other bodies

Councillor Sopowski, nothing to report

Councillor Holdsworth reported that a seminar was to be held on 9th August at St. Andrews Church Hall, Dibden Purlieu entitled "Long Term care Planning for Supporters and Carers". She requested that the notice of meeting be displayed on Council notice boards.

Councillor Oliver, on 30th June attended a 20 year Committee Meeting and on 30th June the AGM of the New Forest Association of Local Councillors.

Councillor Arnold attended the following meetings, 15th June – Verderers Court re Cricket Ground, 20th June Executive Meeting of NFALC, 22nd June informal meeting with the new parish Clerk and his wife, 24th June meeting at Appletree Court re licensing for village halls etc, 27th June 20 year on Committee, 30th June AGM of the NFALC.

District Councillor Tipp advised those living near Public Houses to watch out for blue notices which related to applications for new licences, which may include extended opening hours. He reported that at one meeting he had attended, protests from local people who, while content with the present situation did not want a further one hour or, on some days two hours, extensions. Their protests had resulted in modification to the application. He also reported that in the matter of the Primary Care Trust accounts which he mentioned at the last meeting. He had received a letter from the PCT with the following explanation. The increase in the administration costs from £1.5m in 2002/3 to £11.5m in 2003/4 was due to “a difference of interpretation between Administration Costs and Programme Costs” and that the DoH had notified the PCT that in accounts for this and future years all costs should be classified as Programme Costs. Although this was an unsatisfactory response there appeared to be no point in further questions.

15. Correspondence

The Parish Clerk reported that a list of correspondence received was available on the table.

16. Items for the next meeting

Financial outcome of the 20 years celebration and how to use any surplus arising.

18. Any other business

In response to a question from Councillor Holdsworth, Councillor Sopowski stated that all planning applications within the National Park would be handled by the National Park Authority.

Councillor Judd drew the attention of the meeting to a letter in the Parish Newsletter relating to Parish Councils. After some discussion the Chairman suggest that Councillors may wish to respond as they felt appropriate.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.30.

PLANNING INFORMATION SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING 14TH JUNE 2005

Application No.	Name	Address	Proposal
Applications received			
85074	Hounsome/Page	Land opp 5 and 7 Knightwood Close	Build 2 bungalows
85108	Dyas/Palamino	2/3 Vixen Close	Retain resited fence
85193	Tomlinson	12 Elm Tree Close	Loft conversion
85191	Benham	5 Foxhills	Roof conv/Ground floor ext 2 storey side and single storey rear
85272	Sillence	14 Holly Road Cherry Tree Cottage 133 Lyndhurst Rd	rear
85303	Harding	Rd	conservatory at rear
Planning permission granted			
84451	Bessant	10 Whartons Close	Detached Garage
84655	Smith	34 Lyndhurst Road	Conservatory
Planning permission refused			
84512	Baughan	4 Woodlands Road	Front extension
84683	Pilkington	12, Dene way	Roof alteration & loft conversion
84757	Haddow	13, Dene Way	Loft Conversersion
Tree work applications granted			
TPO106/04		157 Lyndhurst Road	Removal of oak tree